

MEMORIAL

TO THE HONORABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE
OF CANADA IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY
OF SIMCOE,

Respectfully Sheweth :

That, owing to the vastly increasing population of this section of the Province, the Lunatic Asylum accommodation is notoriously inadequate to its necessities. That from the number of applications constantly on the Books of the Asylum at Toronto, awaiting their turn of admission, it is quite impossible to secure the admission of a Lunatic there short of two or three months, however deep-seated the malady, or violent the demeanor of the patient. That, with a view to their safe-keeping, and the prevention of crime, an assault, or articles of the Peace, is generally, indeed in almost every case, preferred against them; and, in consequence, they are incarcerated in the County Gaol, and kept there until a vacancy in the Asylum is advised. That nineteen Lunatics have been so incarcerated in the County Gaol of this County since 1855—eleven males and eight females, confined at periods varying from thirty to two hundred days, on an average of one hundred and two days each, and at a cost to the County of Simcoe, as shewn by an official report of the Governor of the Gaol, of Six Hundred and Ninety-eight Dollars and Sixty Cents.

Your Petitioners need not draw the attention of your Honorable House to the very great injustice done to the unfortunate class of people, whom the Great Disposer of human events, in His inscrutable wisdom, has deprived of reason, by confining them in a County Gaol, where they must necessarily be confined with criminals and parties charged with offences against the laws of the l. l, and receive only such treatment and food as prevails in Gaols generally, and cannot, as a matter of course, have that medical treatment, nourishment, and exercise which their situation imperatively requires—the very natural result of which is the confirmation of the disease or ultimate death of the patient.

Your Petitioners would therefore humbly and earnestly pray your Honorable House to give the extension of the Lunatic Asylum accommodation that calm and serious consideration which its importance demands, and, if not incompatible with your sense of propriety and the finances of the Province, grant the relief prayed for.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

(Signed) G. McMANUS, (L. S.)

WARDEN,

COUNTY OF SIMCOE.

R. B. BERNARD,

COUNTY CLERK.

1859
COUNTY OF ELGIN
No. 74